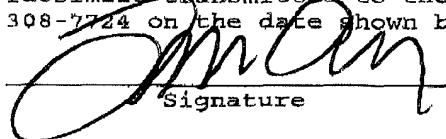


GR 00 P 1568

BOX AF

CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

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J. M. L. Miller
10/29/02IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Francisco Pires
Applic. No. : 09/816,932
Filed : March 23, 2001
Title : Conductor Track Layer Structure and Prestage
Thereof
Examiner : Kamand Cuneo
Group Art Unit : 2827

FAX COPY RECEIVED
OCT 18 2002

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

A M E N D M E N T under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116BOX AF

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks,
Washington, D. C. 20231

S i r :

Responsive to the final Office action dated June 18, 2002
kindly amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Claims:

Claim 5 (amended). A conductor track layer structure precursor
stage comprising:

an electrically insulating substrate having an inner region and two opposite lateral peripheral regions, said inner region having a binding window;

two current lines, each extending respectively in one of said two opposite lateral peripheral regions;

bonding pads disposed in a region of said binding window;

a plurality of conductor tracks disposed on said inner region of said electrically insulating substrate, said conductor tracks not having rated breaking points, not being severed in the region of said binding window, and contacting said bonding pads;

a plurality of conductor track current lines connecting said plurality of conductor tracks, respectively, to one of said two current lines;

each of said conductor tracks being connected to a respective one of said two current lines via a separate conductor track current line and being electrically insulated from the other of said two current lines; and

said conductor tracks inside said inner region being
electrically insulated from one another.

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 5-8 remain in the application. Claim 5 has been amended.

In item 1 on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, Figures 3-4 of the drawings have been objected to for not including proper cross-hatching. Figures 3-4 have been amended to include proper cross-hatching.

In item 3 on pages 2-3 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 5 and 7-8 have been rejected as being anticipated by Baker (US Pat. No. 3,061,911) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

The rejection has been noted and claim 5 has been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. Support for the changes is found on page 4, line 26; page 5, lines 21-23; page 9, line 20-26; and page 10, line 1 of the specification.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claim 1 calls for, inter alia:

two current lines, each extending respectively in one of said two opposite lateral peripheral regions;

bonding pads disposed in a region of said binding window;

a plurality of conductor tracks disposed on said inner region of said electrically insulating substrate, said conductor tracks not having rated breaking points, not being severed in the region of said binding window, and contacting said bonding pads;

a plurality of conductor track current lines connecting said plurality of conductor tracks, respectively, to one of said two current lines;

each of said conductor tracks being connected to a respective one of said two current lines via a separate conductor track current line and being electrically insulated from the other of said two current lines; and

said conductor tracks inside said inner region being electrically insulated from one another.

The invention of the instant application relates to conductor track layer structure precursor stage which is easy to manufacture and which avoids cutting operations of the conductor tracks and high tensions in the region of the conductor tracks, and thus avoids damages thereof.

According to the invention of the instant application, each conductor track is connected to one of the two current lines via a separate conductor track current line and is electrically insulated from the other of the two current lines. The conductor tracks are disposed on the inner region of the electrically insulating substrate in such a way that the conductor tracks do not have rated breaking points and are not severed in the region of the binding window. Therefore,

the length of the conductor tracks and the spacing from the bonding pads located beneath can be minimized.

Baker discloses a printed circuit board. Figure 2 of Baker shows a plan view of a printed circuit panel, whereby conductor lines 18 are located over the entire region of the substrate plate 10 connecting resistors 16 with capacitors 24 and diodes 30.

However, Baker does not disclose the following features according to claim 1 of the instant application:

- (1) current lines (6) located only in two opposite lateral peripheral regions (5) of a electrically insulating substrate (3);
- (2) conductor tracks (2) disposed on an inner region (4) of the electrically insulating substrate (3);
- (3) conductor track current lines (7) connecting the conductor tracks (2) to one of the two current lines (6);
- (4) bonding pads (12) located in the region of a binding window (11) of the inner region (4).

Claim 1 is, therefore, believed to be patentable over Baker and since claims 7-8 are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In item 5 on page 3 of the above-mentioned Office action, claim 6 has been rejected as being unpatentable over Baker under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

As discussed above, claim 1 is believed to be patentable over the art. Since claim 6 is dependent on claim 1, it is believed to be patentable as well.

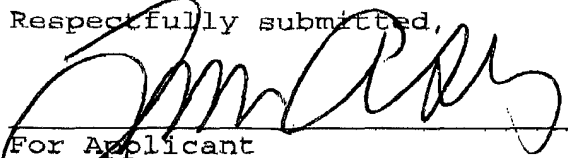
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 5-8 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out. In the alternative, the entry of the amendment is requested as it is believed to place the application in better condition for appeal, without requiring extension of the field of search.

Petition for extension is herewith made. The extension fee for response within a period of one month pursuant to Section 1.136(a) in the amount of \$ 110.00 in accordance with Section 1.17 is enclosed herewith.

Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to
Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and
Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,


For Applicant

LAURENCE A. GREENBERG
REG. NO. 29,308

YHC:cgm

October 18, 2002

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